

Cambridge Public Library
Board of Library Trustees
Minutes

A regular meeting of the Board of Library Trustees was held on Monday, April 7, 2003 in the Director's Office of the Main Library. The following members of the Board of Library Trustees were present:

- Janet Axelrod
- William Barry
- Andre Mayer
- Patricia Payne
- James Roosevelt
- Nancy Woods

also present:

- Susan Flannery, Director of Libraries
- Bertha Chandler, Assistant Director for Human Resources
- Marilyn Gagalís, Administrative Assistant

Minutes of the March meeting were approved.

The Board acknowledged correspondence from the Board of Library Commissioners announcing that the City of Cambridge has received a second award of State Aid to Public Libraries in the amount of \$53,601.94.

Ms. Flannery spoke about the success of the Arbuthnot Lecture that was held on Saturday, April 5, 2002. The Cambridge Public Library has already received accolades from representatives of the library field, literary circles, and the publishing industry. Ms. Axelrod suggested that the Board of Trustees write a letter commending Susan Flannery and her staff for their outstanding efforts in preparing and presenting a world class Arbuthnot Lecture that is sure to elevate the standard for future lectures. William Barry suggested that this letter be sent to the City Manager as well as to Ms. Flannery and her staff. In addition, it was suggested that the letter be submitted to the Cambridge Chronicle to publicly recognize the efforts of the library staff. Board members agreed unanimously to these suggestions. Ms. Flannery also publicly commended the cooperative efforts of MIT and the Fogg Art Museum. Without their venues and participation, this event would not have been possible.

Ms. Flannery informed the Board that the Design Advisory meetings for the next 3 months had been set as May 22nd, June 10th, July 30th. At this time it seems that all meetings will be held at the Senior Center.

Mr. Roosevelt reported that he had not been able to confirm that Senator Clinton would be available to speak at the Galbraith Lecture. Ms. Axelrod will send a letter to Professor Galbraith asking if he would like to contact Senator Clinton himself and/or if he has any suggestions for alternate speakers.

The Hotel Marlowe will host its grand opening tomorrow, April 8, 2003. Invited guests have been asked to bring new books to donate to the library. Ms. Flannery invited all interested Board members to attend this event. Representing the library will be Ms. Flannery, Assistant Director Madeline Amorosi, and Cambridge Public Library Program Coordinator Gail Willett.

The Library will transfer to the III circulation system with the Minuteman Network over the summer months. A period of amnesty may be considered.

The Pet Peeve issue discussed this month was concerning email notices. Board members felt that the general public was not aware that overdue/reserve notices could be sent via email. Considering these times of fiscal and personnel constraints, the trustees felt that the library should publicize this option better to encourage patrons to opt for electronic notices versus paper notices.

In an effort to promote the library's citywide reading initiative, "Cambridge Reads Cover to Cover," Ms. Flannery suggested that the Board of Trustees host a discussion group at their June meeting. Gail Willett, Program Coordinator for the library and coordinator of this program will be invited to attend and facilitate the discussion. Marilyn Gagalís will provide copies of **The Color of Water** for Board members next month.

In a conversation concerning the Patriot Act, Ms. Flannery reported that she had been discussing the ramifications and procedures at April staff meetings. Board members were presented with language from the Santa Cruz Library and proposed language from Worcester Public Library. All Board members agreed that signs should be prepared and posted in each location to inform the patrons of the impact this act may have on their library records. Board members also suggested that the library staff prepare a brochure that would provide a more in depth explanation of the Patriot Act and its practical application. In addition, it was suggested and unanimously approved that Mr. Mayer write a letter to the library's legislators urging them to cosponsor an amendment written by Representative Bernie Sanders of Vermont. Mr. Barry suggested that a panel of experts be convened to present a public forum of this issue. Ms Flannery will investigate that possibility.

Ms. Flannery informed the Board that she had not received any search warrants for the month of March 2003.

There being no further business to come before the Board, the meeting was adjourned at 8:00 p.m. The next meeting of the Board will be on Monday, May 7, 2003 at 6:30 p.m. in the Main Library.

Andre Mayer, Secretary

Action Items:

- Andre Mayer to write letter to legislators encouraging support of Rep. Bernie Sanders' amendment to the Patriot Act.
- Janet Axelrod to write letter of commendation to Ms. Flannery and staff for a successful Arbuthnot Lecture
- Janet Axelrod to submit this letter to the City Manager and Cambridge Chronicle as well as to Ms. Flannery & staff
- Janet Axelrod to send prepared letter to Professor Galbraith
- Susan Flannery to prepare signs and brochure informing patrons of Patriot Act
- Susan Flannery to invite Gail Willett to facilitate a June book discussion group with the Board
- Susan Flannery to investigate possibility of a public forum regarding the Patriot Act
- Susan Flannery to provide additional publicity for email library notices
- Marilyn Gagalis to provide copies of **The Color of Water** for Board members next month.